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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11137 161657Z
ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /015 W
----------102132 171010Z /12
R 161642Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9464
INFO USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS BONN 11137

FOR OPA/MEDIA SERVICES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, GW, US
SUBJECT: MUTUALITY PROPOSAL: RADIO BRIDGE

1. THE POST WAS APPROACHED BY THE "STAEDTE-BRUECKE" (CITY BRIDGE), A REGISTERED ASSOCIATION WITH ITS SEAT IN HAMBURG, TO FACILITATE CONTACT WITH LOCAL BROADCASTERS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP AND HONORARY PRESIDENT IS KAI-UWE VON HASSEL, LEADING CDU POLITICIAN, FORMER CABINET MEMBER AND A GREAT SUPPORTER OF US-FRG FRIENDSHIP. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION IS GERD RIBATIS. THE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION IS TO EXCHANGE RADIO PROGRAMS BETWEEN GERMAN AND AMERICAN CITIES. RIBATIS IS A RADIO JOURNALIST WHO IS ON THE STAFF OF NORTH GERMAN RADIO IN HAMBURG.

2. THE PROGRAM CONCEPT BEGAN DURING THE 1976 BICENTENNIAL YEAR WHEN 325 GERMAN TOWNS AND THEIR MAYORS TOOK PART IN A SERIES OF "GREETINGS TO AMERICA" BROADCASTS. THE SUCCESS OF THIS SERIES INSPIRED RIBATIS TO START HIS "GERMAN-AMERICAN RADIO BRIDGE", VIA A SERIES OF RECORDED INTERCHANGES BETWEEN CITIES. INITIAL EFFORT HAS ALREADY LED TO AN INTERCHANGE
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BETWEEN AACHEN AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA. ABOUT 100 GERMAN CITIES ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE, WITH SPECIFIC GROUPS WITHIN GERMAN CITIES READY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH SIMILAR GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES VIA THE QUOTE RADIO BRIDGE UNQUOTE. EXAMPLES ARE HOBBY GROUPS, SPORTS CLUBS, CHOIR AND SINGING CLUBS, WOMENS AND SCHOOL GROUPS. PROGRAMS RECORDED BY THE RADIO BRIDGE

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WILL BE IN ENGLISH.

3. RIBATIS GROUP HAS STARTED MAKING CONTACTS IN THE U.S. BY PLACING NEWSPAPER STORIES ON A TRIAL BASIS IN FLORIDA AND TENNESSEE. HE ALSO WROTE TO NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, 2025 M STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, LAST NOVEMBER AND RECEIVED NO REPLY.

4. THIS PROGRAM IS A NATURAL FOR ICA'S NEW MUTUALITY RESPONSIBILITY. THE GROUP IS SERIOUS, THOSE PARTICIPATING INTERESTED, AND EAGER TO GET MOVING. THE POST WILL APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED AS TO WHOM RIBATIS COULD SEND TAPE CASSETTES FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION IN THE US. OF COURSE, HE PREFERS A SINGLE ADDRESS RATHER THAN A NUMBER OF STATIONS IN THE US.
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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:**
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